

QUESTION 4:  
OTHER ISSUES ON YOUR MINDS

“As your elected representative, what other issues should I be paying attention to?”

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES	Number of respondents	
Transportation (freeways, streets, mass transit)	190	26.3%
⇒ Specifically mentioned mass transit	116	16.1%
Improve social services	181	25.1%
⇒ Homeless needs	85	11.8%
⇒ Affordable housing	49	6.8%
Education	72	10.0%
Cost of living is too high	70	9.7%
Environmental protection	66	9.1%
Concerned about gentrification	59	8.2%
Preserve green space in King County	45	6.2%

The issue that you most clearly said I should concentrate on is transportation. There were 190 respondents (26.3%) who mentioned the need to improve our transportation network (roads and mass transit). Of these people, 116 (16.1% of survey respondents, and 61% of those who mentioned transportation) specifically spoke to the need for mass transit. I found it particularly interesting that the farther constituents lived from downtown, the more likely they were to be concerned about transportation. This further highlights that people are having trouble getting around King County.

The second most frequently mentioned need was for more social services programs (181 people, or 25.1%). Of these constituents, 85 (11.8%) were specifically concerned about homeless needs, and 49 (6.8%) cited affordable housing. Other concerns about social services included the need for affordable child care and senior services, the needs of the disabled, unemployed, and working-class children and families, as well as many people who simply mentioned “social services” without additional details.

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# Community Survey Results

April 2002

Dear Neighbor,

Back in January, I sent out a newsletter entitled “The Year in Review.” In it, I included a four-question survey in which I asked residents of my legislative district to provide me with their opinions. There were 722 people who took time out of their busy schedules to respond. For that I am extremely grateful.

I felt it was important to get back to you and let you know the results. I’d also like for you to know that your input will serve as one of the important guideposts for me as I continue to weigh public policy issues that come before the Council.

Of particular interest to me as Chair of the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee was your input on crime. Given the County’s severe budget problems, I am hopeful we can come up with ways to battle the root causes of crime, so that we can safely and effectively reduce our jail population.

Should you have any questions regarding the results of this survey, please e-mail me anytime at [larry.gossett@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.gossett@metrokc.gov) or call me at 296-1010.

Sincerely,  
*Larry Gossett*  
Larry Gossett

QUESTION 1:  
CRIME PROBLEMS IN DISTRICT 10

“What do you think are the main crime problems existing in your neighborhood?”

Lower-level crimes, such as mugging, drug abuse, car prowling, etc., were the most frequently mentioned offenses (322 respondents or 44.6%). The second biggest category of crimes of major concern to respondents are what we call civility offenses—drunkenness, aggressive panhandling, etc.—and were cited by 127 people (17.6%). Only 23 citizens (3.2%) reported concerns about serious crime (murder, rape, domestic violence).

CRIME IN DISTRICT 10	Number of respondents	
Drugs	139	19.3%
Theft (burglary, mugging, petty theft)	100	13.9%
Car Theft	83	11.5%
Car Prowl / Break-in	75	10.4%
Vandalism	69	9.6%
No Serious Crime in Your Neighborhood	66	9.1%
Youth Crime	60	8.3%
Aggressive Panhandling	48	6.6%
Careless Driving	38	5.3%
Public Drunkenness	29	4.0%

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What do you feel can be done about these problems by County government officials?

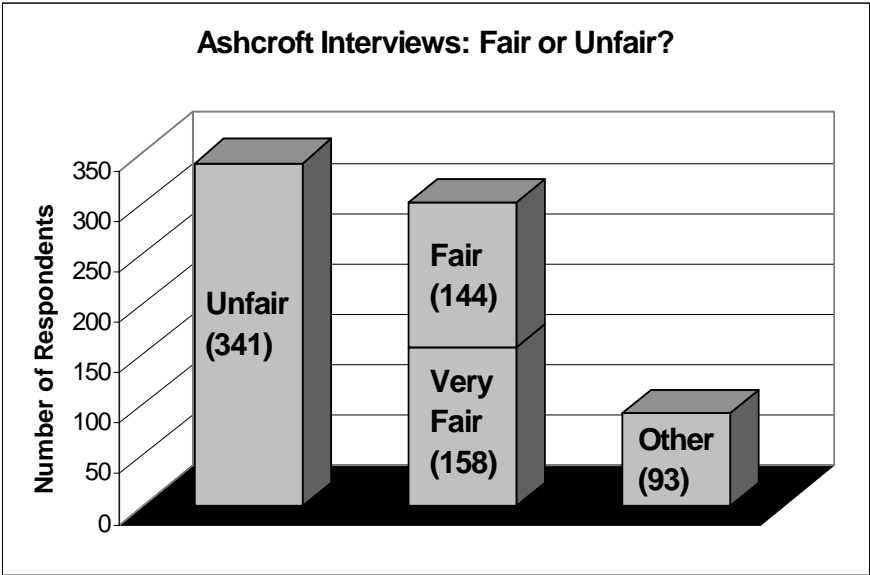
WHAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CAN DO	Number of respondents	
Better Social Safety Net	137	19.0%
⇒ Drug Treatment62	8.6%	
⇒ Positive Programs for Youth	38	5.3%
More Police	85	11.8%
Tougher Prosecution & Penalties	41	5.7%
Citizen Review of Police	22	3.0%
Police Need to Be More Effective	21	2.9%
Legalize Drugs	21	2.9%
Better Lighting	17	2.4%
Neighborhood Watch	17	2.4%

The largest number of respondents spoke to the need for a broader social safety net within our communities (137 people, or 19.0%). Specifically, they stated things like expanding drug treatment efforts, re-entry assistance programs for those being released from jail, the need for more alternatives to incarceration, an increased focus on rehabilitation of offenders, and more services for youth. The next largest group of respondents (85 people, or 11.8%) wrote that more police would help stem the crime problems in our area. A tougher approach to prosecution and sentencing was favored by 41 people (5.7%).

QUESTION 2:  
ASHCROFT INTERVIEWS OF ARAB MALES

“Attorney General John Ashcroft has said, in response to the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, that he plans to use new powers granted to him by Congress, such as interviewing 6,000 Arab males who have arrived in the country during the last few years on student or temporary visas. Mark the box that best reflects your opinion of this strategy.” [Very Fair / Fair / Unfair / Other]

There were 341 respondents (47.2%) who saw the interviews as “unfair” to Arab or Muslim visitors, while 302 (41.8%) thought they were either “fair” or “very fair.” Among those who said the interviews were unfair, 150 people (20.8%) were concerned about racial profiling, and 109 (15.1%) felt strongly about the need to preserve Constitutional rights to due process. Also, 23 people compared the interviews to the Japanese-American internment during World War II; 14 mentioned that white people weren’t targeted for interviewing after the Oklahoma City attacks; and 7 said the current furor reminds them of McCarthyism. Of those who felt the interviews were fair, 100 (13.9%) said the interviews were okay because of the extraordinary circumstances of the September 11 terrorist attack. Fifty of the residents (6.9%) felt that Arabs or Muslims should be closely scrutinized by law enforcement.

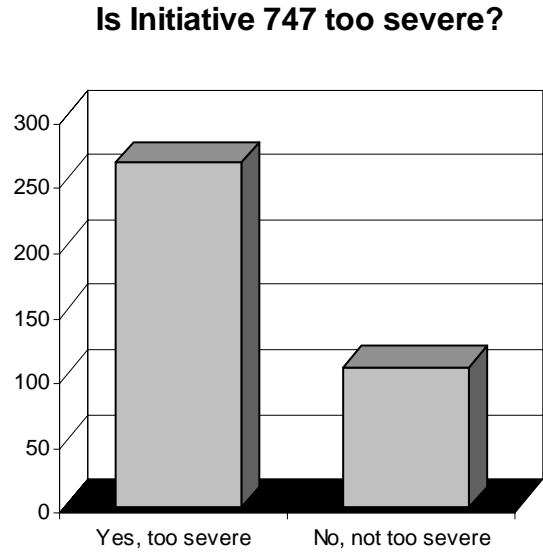


District 10 residents have different ideas about the interviews, but more often than not, respondents felt this kind of targeted interview is unfair.

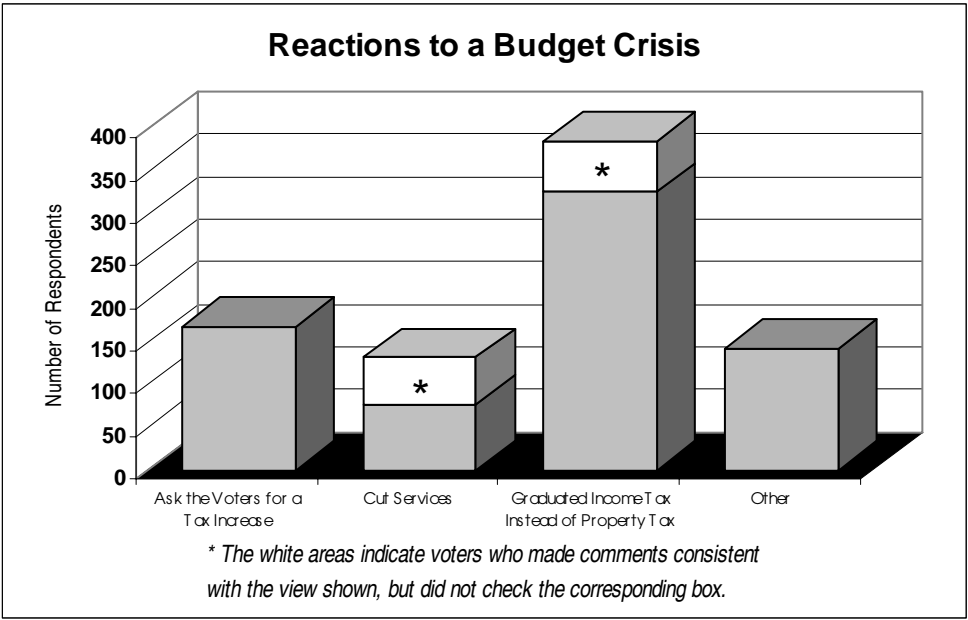
QUESTION 3:  
GOVERNMENT BUDGETING AFTER I-747

“Do you feel [that Initiative 747] too severely limits the ability of government to solve serious problems, like transportation, education and so on?”

By more than a 2-to-1 margin (265 to 108), constituents felt that Initiative 747 too severely limits government revenues. (Initiative 747 is a measure that prohibits Washington state government from raising property taxes more than 1% per year.)



“Which of these strategies would you most favor the government pursuing if more tax dollars are required to respond to critical public needs in the future?” (The multiple choice options are listed on the chart below.)



A majority of survey respondents favor a graduated income tax.

The most popular choice, endorsed by 387 respondents (53.6%), was a graduated state income tax, where those with high incomes would pay a higher percentage of their income for taxes. Of these, 64 citizens (8.9%) felt that the income tax should be added to the existing property tax rather than replacing the property tax. The next most popular option, chosen by 169 respondents (23.4%), was to ask the voters for a property-tax increase. Finally, 132 people (18.3%) said government officials should cut services to solve any revenue shortfall, and not rely on overburdened taxpayers to bail them out.